

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his attention to the application and for the allowance of Claims 7, 9-12, 26 and 28-31 and for indicating that Claims 8, 17-19 and 27 would be allowable if certain informalities are corrected. Accordingly, Claims 8 and 27 are made dependent upon Claims 7 and 26 respectively so these claims should be allowable. Claim 17 has been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for "the peel guide" so Claims 17-19 should be allowable. Claim 26, although allowed, is amended to correct an informality (replacing "the" exit platen with "an" exit platen). Claims 2-6, 13-16 and 20-25 have been cancelled.

Claim 1 is amended and presented for the Examiner's further consideration. In this respect, Claim 1 is amended to further define that the peel guide means maintains a constant "peel angle between the donor and the laminated printed media as the donor leaves the printed media"

Claim 1 also is amended by the addition of an exit platen that is

"located downstream of where the donor leaves the printed media and at an upwardly tilted angle with respect to the first paper path, the exit platen being disposed to direct the printed media upwardly with respect to the first paper path to promote the release of the laminate from the printed media at the trailing edge of the printed media as the trailing edge passes the peel guide means."

It is believed that providing an exit platen having the structure, disposition and function as now set out in Claim 1 should patentably distinguish from the references. In particular, the element labeled "34" in Ohata is a downwardly tilted receiving table. As Applicants previously noted, the difference between the Ohata receiving table and Applicants' platen is more than merely one of semantics. The difference is highlighted by the recitation that Applicants' platen is disposed "at an upwardly tilted angle" with respect to the paper path. It is this upwardly tilting that causes the printed media to bend to promote the separation of a portion of the lamination from the printed media at the trailing edge of the printed media. The Ohata table is neither angled as now set out in Claim 1 nor does it promote the release of laminate as claimed.

Accordingly, Applicants considers that in view of the amendments and comments as set out above, the claims remaining in the case are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

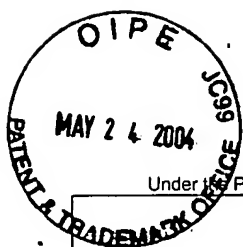
Dated: May ¹⁹, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

HARTER, SECREST & EMERY LLP

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roger Aceto", written over a horizontal line.

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